

NEWSLETTER

Governors of SS Alban & Stephen RC Infant School

- **Welcome and thanks**

Welcome to the Governors' newsletter for the Summer term. Our aim is to keep you informed on governing issues and up to date on the schools' performance.

As ever, we start with our thank yous:

- Thank you to the staff at our schools for their hard work and dedication to the school. It was evident at Open Evening the pride which all of the staff have in the school and their pupils.
- Thank you to all members of the PTA for their hard work this term and over this academic year. We know that they need lots of volunteers and support going forwards so please do whatever you can (even if that is only a little) to help them.
- Thank you to all who have supported Mrs Dempsey in her term as Acting Head teacher. We know that she has felt very well supported by our school community and can't wait to take on the role of Head teacher formally.

- **From our Chair of Governors:**

It has been another eventful and successful year for the Infants school and I'm glad to see that the children are making great progress in their work, which was in evidence as I looked at the children's displays at the recent open evening. Mrs Dempsey and her team have stepped up to the challenge of driving our school forward this term, so special thanks go to her and the staff.

Christian Gallagher, Chair of Governors SsAS Infant School

- **From our Headteacher:**

It's been a year of change at the Infants school. We said goodbye to Mrs Holden at Easter and she's enjoying her retirement. Ms Pratten is leaving us to devote more time to working in her church and Mrs Rothwell & Mrs Brathwaite are retiring. Thanks also to Mrs Bailey who has been teaching Art in Year 2 and 'adios' to Ms Alcaez, one of our support staff, who is returning to Spain.

Sadly we are also saying goodbye to Father Charles. He has been a true friend and great support to the school and the children will miss his regular visits. We wish him every blessing and happiness in his new role and we hope he'll keep in touch.

We are delighted that Mrs Smith and Mrs Watters have agreed to continue as acting deputy heads until a new deputy is recruited. Mrs Murphy is taking on responsibility for SEN & Inclusion. In September we will be joined by new members of staff; Mrs Storey our new Nursery teacher, Miss Ketley who will work with Mrs Smith in Class 1, Miss O'Sullivan who will work with Mrs Murphy in

Summer Term 2015 July 2015

Class 3 and Mrs Cooper who will work with Mrs Tennant in Class 6. Mrs Rees will continue to work part-time, supporting across KS1 and FS, which is great news.

There have been so many successes this year, it's hard to pick out the highlights. I'm so proud of the way the children reach out to help those less fortunate than themselves and we've had letters of thanks from a number of charities and individuals. Most notable amongst our fundraising efforts were £900 raised for Nepalese earthquake victims on Pyjama Day and £290 raised by Darcey Jones, our head teacher for the day, who made a moving appeal on behalf of Save the Children.

It has been a challenging year for staff with the introduction of a new curriculum and huge changes to assessment and I'd like to publicly thank them for their professionalism and adaptability. Teacher assessments show an improvement in all core areas at the end of Year 2 and we're especially pleased with the improvement in more challenging Maths outcomes for girls. Writing is making good progress and our boys have improved but we will continue to work on this target as a school - look out for workshops in the Autumn term.

Open Evening was a great success and a chance to celebrate all the hard work this year. Expressive Arts week was awash with pointillism, exciting traditional stories, music and dance from Australia & New Zealand. Everyone enjoyed Green Day and our outdoor learning is really developing well. We were thrilled to hear that we have been awarded our Green Flag! Congratulations to Mrs Murphy, Mrs Tennant and the Eco Team. We owe a huge debt to those gardening committee parents and pupils in Year 3 whose enthusiasm and support is at the heart of this success – Thank you!

Our love and prayers go with those children and families who are leaving for Juniors or relocating to new towns and countries; thank you for your contributions to school life. I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

- **Committee News**

As a governing body we have been required to reconstitute this year. We have taken the reconstitution process very seriously keeping the interests of the children and our school's drive to build God's community of love and learning and the heart of our actions.

We have three committees that meet every term in addition to our Full Governing Body meetings six times per year. All committees have met twice during the Spring term and been engaged in the following activities:

Finance, Premises and Health& Safety (FPH):

The FPH (Finance, Premises and Health and Safety) committee has been engaged in a number of activities this term including:

- Initiatives to increase the number of eligible parents claiming free school meals and therefore increasing the funding the school receives for our children via the Pupil Premium
- Overseeing the budget to ensure expenditure is in line with forecasts and benchmarking to ensure we are in line with other similar schools
- Supporting the schools to maintain the premises

Summer Term 2015
July 2015

- Health & Safety inspections have been carried out by FPH committee members

Curriculum and Special Needs (CSN):

The CSN committee has met twice this term.

- The committee discussed the School Development Plan and in particular the implementation of the New Curriculum.
- At each committee meeting Mrs Dempsey presented a subject report. This term Art, DT and Computing were discussed. Both Art and DT play a big part in the curriculum and are linked to many cross-curricular areas. The school achieved the Artsmark in 2012 for work in all areas of the creative arts. It strives to promote the importance of the arts in the curriculum and encourages children to take part in other activities and in our outdoor areas. This year we have had winners in the Parish Advent art competition and the Grove Hospice design a groovy shoe competition. All children have discrete Computing lessons with Mrs Rothwell as well as using IT for cross-curricular activities.
- E-Safety is taken very seriously and is a continual focus across the year groups.
- A general report on SEND was given by Mrs Dempsey.

Communications, Admissions, Marketing and Personnel (CAMP):

This committee met to discuss :

- Communications – the school survey was conducted and discussed. We are looking at ways to improve areas raised by the survey.
- Admissions – the admissions process is complete for this year and we are working with Diocese and County as well as learning lessons from other schools to improve this process
- Marketing – we have liaised with local press to promote school events and to raise the schools' profiles locally.
- Personnel – we also work with the Heads to support them in recruitment for the schools.
- **Attendance data (to 15th July 2015)**

Infant School –	
Morning Nursery	91.63%
Afternoon Nursery	91.58%
Class 1	97.01%
Class 2	96.56%
Class 3	97.29%
Class 4	96.15%
Class 5	98.07%
Class 6	97.96%

We hope you all enjoy a well-deserved Summer break.